CANON EOS 500
£370

Launched as a replacement to the best selling EOS 1000FN, this feature-packed, model offers a three-point AF system for improved accuracy, a lighter body and decent handling characteristics. It's compact and curvaceous, and a hit with beginners.

- **LENS: 35-80MM**
- **BC TEST: NOV '93**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES P, AP, SP, M, PIC, AD
BODY WEIGHT 350g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 1fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

NIKON F50
£400

Has large display panel and offers a foolproof 'simple' function for newcomers, plus more advanced features for experienced users. It feels solid and delivers great results, but can initially be fiddly to use.

- **LENS: 35-80MM**
- **BC TEST: MAY '94**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 580g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 1fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

NIKON F-601
£500

The user-friendly top-plate layout and good all-round specification make this an ideal SLR for the serious enthusiast wanting an affordable entry into the superb Nikon system. The focusing is fast and accurate, the metering excellent.

- **LENS: 50MM**
- **BC TEST: DEC '90**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 650g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 2fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

MINOLTA X-700
£380

A tried and tested manual focus SLR that still manages to attract a popular following. Offers traditional handling characteristics with a logical layout of controls and a comfortable, robust body. Excellent range of features for general use and a reliable history.

- **LENS: 50MM**

MANUAL FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, M
BODY WEIGHT 505g
SHUTTER SPEEDS ..4-1/1000sec
FRAMES PER SEC. .....opt

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

MINOLTA 500SI
£400

Mid range addition to the Minolta si-series offers an excellent spec at an affordable price. It feels solid and comfortable to hold, the controls are logically laid out to provide rapid access to all functions, and it gives excellent results in all conditions. Worth shortlisting.

- **LENS: 35-70MM**
- **TESTED: APRIL '94**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 395g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 1fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

OLYMPUS IS-2DLX
£500

Combines SLR versatility with compact convenience in a radically-styled body. The autofocusing is fast and accurate, the controls well-laid out, and the lens optically excellent. Not cheap, and limited by fixed lens, but fortunately the range is wide and it's a great one-stop camera that works well.

- **LENS: 35-135MM**
- **BC TEST: OCT'92 (£2000)**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, M, PIC
BODY WEIGHT 890g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 15-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 2.3fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

YASHICA 300AF
£380

At present Yashica's only AF model on offer. The body styling is refined from the previous 270AF to give superb handling, and input dials allow instant access to the various modes, but it's still lacking in the metering department with only centre-weighted and there's no viewfinder info.

- **LENS: 28-70MM**
- **BC TEST: AUGUST '93**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 400g
SHUTTER SPEEDS ..8-1/2000sec
MOTORDRIVE 2fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

RICOH XRX 3PF
£400

Multi-mode, manual focus SLR with useful features including auto bracketing and multiple exposure. But at £400 it lags behind its rivals in terms of overall spec. One for the manual brigade who prefer control of focusing, but multi-segment metering would be a nice addition.

- **LENS: 28-80MM**
- **BC TEST: FEBRUARY '95**

MANUAL FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 550g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 32-1/3000sec
MOTORWIND 2fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

PENTAX MZ-5
£600

The smallest autofocus SLR currently available and with a retro feel. It sits between the current Z-70 and their old ME-Super in size. Its shutter speed dial brings a welcome return to easy to use control. The most interesting Pentax AF SLR yet and set to be a winner.

- **LENS: 28-70MM**
- **BC TEST: MAR '96**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES ..... P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 400g
SHUTTER SPEEDS .30-1/2000sec
MOTORDRIVE 2fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

PENTAX Z-70
£380

Latest Z-series from Pentax incorporates their program picture modes, as well as aperture and shutter-priority. There's also a two segment metering pattern and a built-in flash, covering lenses as wide as 28mm. Replaces the current Z-50P and Z-20.

- **LENS: 50MM**
- **BC TEST: AUGUST '95**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 430g
SHUTTER SPEEDS .30-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 1.8fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

MINOLTA 500SI SUPER
£450

Recently launched to satisfy a market midway between Minolta's 500si and their 700si. Offers additional features over the 500si such as spot metering, DX-override and a remote release, as well as quieter operation – features more suited to the advanced photographer.

- **LENS: 35-70MM**
- **BC TEST: SEPT '95**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .P, AP, SP, M, PIC
BODY WEIGHT 400g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/2000sec
MOTORWIND 1fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

OLYMPUS IS-3000
£600

Replaces a whole bagful of gear in a sleek, compact package. Features such as spot metering, superb autofocusing and a powerful zoom lens make for a capable machine that can be used to tackle any subject. Ideal if you're travelling light but want optimum versatility.

- **LENS: 35-180MM**
- **BC TEST: DEC '92**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .P, AP, SP, M, PIC
BODY WEIGHT 540g
SHUTTER SPEEDS .15-1/2000sec
MOTORDRIVE 2fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

SIGMA SA-300
£390

Sigma's first foray into the SLR market, and a great one at that. Offers all the features you're likely to need in a solid, attractively-designed body that feels good in the hand and handles well. The AF system isn't the best around, and lets down an otherwise faultless camera.

- **LENS: 35-80MM**
- **BC TEST: MAY '93**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 445g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/4000sec
MOTORWIND 3fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

SIGMA SA-300N
£470

Sigma say they have improved the AF performance on this model over the SA-300, but it's not really noticeable. There is more potential for flash pictures, and the standard 24-70mm lens is terrific. The list of features is also impressive.

- **LENS: 24-70MM**
- **BC TEST: MARCH '95**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 445g
SHUTTER SPEEDS 30-1/4000sec
MOTORWIND 3fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

MINOLTA 7XI
£610

The high level of sophistication will appeal to both beginners and serious enthusiasts alike. Whatever the subject or situation it can be relied upon to deliver the goods, thanks to wide range of exposure modes, superb metering and excellent focusing.

- **LENS: 50MM**
- **BC TEST: AUG/ SEPT '91**

AUTO FOCUS

EXP.MODES .....P, AP, SP, M
BODY WEIGHT 650g
SHUTTER SPEEDS .30-1/8000sec
MOTORDRIVE 4fps

BC OVERALL RATING

FEATURES
HANDLING
PERFORMANCE
VALUE

DEPTH-OF-FIELD PREVIEW · EXPOSURE COMPENSATION · CONT. FRAME ADVANCE · CENTRE-WEIGHTED · MULTI-PATTERN METER
SPOT METER · FLASH SYNC. SOCKET · REMOTE RELEASE SOCKET · MULTIPLE EXPOSURE · BUILT-IN FLASH

EXPOSURE MODES: P-PROGRAM AP-APERTURE PRIORITY SP-SHUTTER PRIORITY M-MANUAL DOF-DEPTH PIC-PROGRAMME IMAGE CONTROL